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**Author and Editor Landon Jones to Discuss His Book
About American Explorer William Clark**
Event is Part of the Great American Writers Series

SAN DIEGO – Author and magazine editor Landon Y. Jones will discuss his latest work, a biography of explorer William Clark, as part of the Great American Writers Series, sponsored by the City of San Diego Public Library and the City Club of San Diego. The event will be held Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Point Loma-Hervey Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St. This is a free public event, but reservations are required.

In “William Clark and the Shaping of the West,” Jones uses newly available archival materials to provide a riveting portrait of the lawlessness and chaos of post-revolutionary life on the American frontier as well as a fast-paced story of Clark’s dramatic life. Famous for his exploits as part of the fabled Lewis and Clark expedition, but long overshadowed by the ill-fated Lewis, Clark (1770-1838) spent the better part of his life playing a key role in America’s expansion into the territory he had eagerly scouted.

Born into a planter family, Clark grew up in Kentucky, of necessity becoming an expert marksman. By the age of 24, Clark had served as a lieutenant in various Indian wars throughout Kentucky and the territories that later became Ohio and Illinois. After the expedition with Lewis, Clark resumed his military career, overseeing the expropriation of Indian lands by treaty and war—a task for which, in Jones’s searing honest portrait, Clark showed no compunction. Clark was unafraid to kill Native Americans mercilessly in order to demonstrate his power and the power and determination of his country. As Jones indicates, by the time Clark died he had “supervised the removal of 81,282 Indians from the eastern United States to the western side of

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the Mississippi.” Jones’s spirited and balanced biography is likely to tarnish the image of one of America’s celebrated heroes. The United States is currently celebrating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Jones was managing editor at *People* magazine for eight years and wrote and edited for *Life*, *Time*, *Money* and *People* magazines for 37 years. He is currently vice president of the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. His previous books include “Great Expectations: America and the Baby Boom” and “The Essential Lewis and Clark.” He lives in Princeton, N.J.

After the Jan. 19 program, Mr. Jones will be available to sign copies of his books. To make reservations for this event, contact the City Club of San Diego at (619) 687-3580 or send email to cityclubofsandiego@prodigy.net .

From its inception in 1999, the Great American Writers Series was designed to feature the whole genre of American writing – fiction, non-fiction and journalism. The public has enjoyed nearly 40 events in the series, most of which have been free of charge.

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